

December 30, 1953

Dr. L. J. Wickerham
Northern Regional Research Laboratory
U.S.D.A.
Peoria 5, Illinois

Dear Dr. Wickerham:

In connection with a projected bit of research on the genetics of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* I had occasion to try to look up the range of sugars fermented by this yeast. To my astonishment a moderately brief search gave me very little information and my only encouragement was from your paper which appeared as Technical Bulletin No. 1029 of the U.S.D.A. in 1951. This paper gives, of course, many details on the genus *Hansenula* but refers to other studies in progress in the course of which I hoped you might have done extensive tests on species of the genus *Saccharomyces*. As I am looking for suggestions on the sugars that might prove to be of value as genetic markers, it is not essential that the fermentation reactions be necessarily diagnostic of a particular species.

Have you had an occasion or opportunity to prepare any sort of summary of the utilization of diverse sugars by *Saccharomyces* species? At the instant I happen to be particularly interested in the utilization and fermentation of cellobiose. Any information that you can give me on these points would be greatly appreciated. I would be indebted to you also for a reprint of the publication referred to above and for any others that may bear further on the same subject.

With best wishes for the season,

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg,
Associate Professor of Genetics

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